

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims with the following:

. 1. (Currently Amended) A method of noise filtering an image sequence (V_I),
~~characterized in that the method comprises comprising the steps of:~~

 determining (11) statistics in at least one image of the image sequence
(V_I); and

 calculating (14) at least one filtered pixel value (P'_i) from a set of original
pixel values (P_i, M_i) obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel
values (P_i, M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12, α) of the statistics (11).

2. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
step of calculating comprises:

 weighting (13) the set of original pixel values (P_i, M_i) under control (12, α)
of the statistics (11) to obtain a weighted set of pixel values (P_i, N_i); and

 furnishing the weighted set of pixel values (P_i, N_i) to a static filter, in which
[static filter] the at least one filtered pixel value (P'_i) is calculated from the weighted set
of pixel values (P_i, N_i).

3. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
statistics (11) include a spatial and/ or temporal spread (S) of the set of original pixel
values (P_i, M_i).

4. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the
spatial and/ or temporal spread (S) is a sum of absolute differences, a given absolute
difference being obtained by subtracting an average pixel value from a given original
pixel value (P_i, M_i).

5. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
set of original pixel values (P_i, M_i) include a central pixel value (P_i) and spatially and/or

temporally surrounding pixel values (M_i), wherein as a result of the noise filtering, the central pixel value (P_t) is replaced by the filtered pixel value (P_t').

6. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the set of weighted pixel values (P_t, N_i) is obtained by taking for each pixel in the set of original pixels (P_t, M_i), a combination of a portion α of the original pixel value (P_t, M_i) and a portion $1-\alpha$ of a central pixel value (P_t).
7. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the statistics (11) are furnished to a look-up table (12), from which look-up table (12) a control signal (α) is obtained, which control signal (α) controls the weighting (13).
8. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating (14) a median of the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i).
9. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating (14) an average of the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i).
10. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 9, the method further comprising:
determining (41) a spatial spread (S_{spat}) calculated from spatially displaced original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i, P_{t1}, P_{t2});
determining (42) a temporal spread (S_{temp}) calculated from temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2}) in the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i, P_{t1}, P_{t2}); and

weighting (46) the spatially displaced original pixel values (P_i, M_i) under control (43) of the spatial spread (S_{spat}) and the temporally displaced original pixel values (P_i, P_{i1}, P_{i2}) under control (44,45) of the temporal spread (S_{temp}).

11. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the weighted temporally displaced original pixel values (WP_1, WP_2) are divided (a) to lessen their weight in the filtering (47).

12. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the temporally displaced original pixel values include two original pixel values (P_{i1}, P_{i2}) from different fields in a same frame (F_0) and at least one original pixel value of a previous frame (F_{-1}).

13. (Currently Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein filtered temporally displaced pixel values are used rather than temporally displaced original pixel values.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding (1) an image sequence ($V1$), ~~wherein the image sequence ($V1$) is noise filtered according to a method as claimed in claim 1. comprising the steps of:~~

encoding a plurality of filtered images, wherein the filtered images are obtained by the steps of:

determining statistics in each image of the image sequence ($V1$);

and

calculating a filtered pixel value (P_i) from a set of original pixel values (P_i, M_i) obtained from each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_i, M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12, α) of the statistics (11).

15. (Original)A device for noise filtering an image sequence, the device comprising:

computing means (11) for determining statistics in at least one image of the image sequence ($V1$); and
filtering means (14) for calculating at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12, α) of the statistics (11).

16. (Currently Amended)A device for encoding (1) an image sequence (V1), the device comprising:

receiving means for receiving filtered images, wherein the filtered images of the image sequence created by a device comprising: a device for noise filtering as claimed in claim 15.

computing means (11) for determining statistics in each image of the image sequence ($V1$); and

filtering means (14) for calculating a filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12, α) of the statistics (11).